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almost apathetic indifference which was incredible in the midst of such great dangers. So he remained at Metz, a hindrance to action, hesitating because of timidity or policy, withdrawing little by little into an inaccessible solitude, losing caste by degrees in the eyes of the soldiers, awaiting vaguely any solution that chance might offer, forming designs that were half plans and half intrigues, and allowing the days to slip by one by one when alone safety might be assured." Little wonder that M. La Gorce can exclaim after Bazaine's narrow escape from capture in the battle of Rezonville, "Even to the end fortune followed the Prussians, for Bazaine was saved for the army and for France."

Now that M. La Gorce has completed his history, it is in order for some publisher to consider the possibility of a version in English for the benefit of the English-reading public. Judicious pruning would reduce it considerably in size and bring it within the compass of half a dozen volumes. Sybel's history, which is less popular in style and treatment than is that of M. La Gorce, found a publisher; and there is no reason why a translation of the *History of the Second Empire* should not do the same. It would meet the demand which exists and must always exist for a history of Europe during the eventful years from 1850 to 1870.

CHARLES M. ANDREWS.

Lord Randolph Churchill. By WINSTON SPENCER CHURCHILL, M.P. (New York: The Macmillan Company; London: Macmillan and Company. 1906. Two vols., pp. xviii, 564; ix, 532.)

LORD RANDOLPH CHURCHILL, judged only by the length of time he was of the Salisbury Cabinets (1885-1886 and 1886-1892) does not occupy a large place among English statesmen. But this fact notwithstanding, the life which Mr. Winston Spencer Churchill has written of his father will assuredly rank among the great English political biographies of the nineteenth century. It will have to be read—nay, even more than read—it will have to be carefully studied by all who would be well versed in the political history of England, especially party history, from the Reform Act of 1867 to the end of the Unionist administration of 1886-1892.

Among biographies of statesmen and politicians of the Victorian era Mr. Churchill's two volumes must be placed next after Morley's *Life of Gladstone*, and alongside Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice's *Life of Earl Granville* and Charles Stuart Parker's *Life of Sir Robert Peel*; for it has all the finality and authority of these biographies, because like them it is based on letters and documents. What Parker's life of Peel does for the Toryism of the period between the peace after Waterloo and the break-up of the old Tory party after the repeal of the Corn Laws in 1846, Mr. Churchill's life of Lord Randolph Churchill does for the newer Toryism, for the Toryism which dates from Disraeli's leadership of the House of Commons, and which for the present may be said to have come to an end with the general election of 1906. Lord Randolph

Churchill died in 1895. But before he ceased to be a political force, the Tory and Unionist party was coming under the domination of Mr. Chamberlain, and was entering on the era which came to an end with the complete and utter rout of the party at the general election in the early days of 1906.

Lord Randolph Churchill's place in English political history is not to be measured by the few months in which he was Secretary of State for India or the still shorter period in which he was Chancellor of the Exchequer and leader of the House of Commons. In any political history covering the last half of Queen Victoria's reign he must have a prominent place by reason of the enormous influence which he exercised over the Tory party in Parliament and in the constituencies in the years which preceded and in those which immediately followed the Reform Acts of 1884-1885. How Lord Randolph Churchill came to exercise this great influence, what he aimed at as regards shaping the policy of the Tory party, and also as regards legislation, is all detailed in Mr. Winston Churchill's biography; and the career of Lord Randolph Churchill is followed with a detachment that is indeed remarkable in the case of a man who is following out the career of his father. Perhaps this detachment is due to the fact that Mr. Winston Churchill was never associated with his father in the House of Commons; that he was too young to be in political life at all during the few years in which his father was the outstanding figure among the Tories and the Unionists in the House of Commons, and the most popular leader of the Tory party in all the great urban centres of England which at that time were giving their adherence to the Tory and Unionist party.

Whatever the reason may be, the detachment with which Mr. Churchill has written these volumes is as remarkable as the style in which they are written. There are eleven hundred pages, and there is not a page that could be spared. The volumes are much more than a history of the life and times of Lord Randolph Churchill. They form the best history extant of Toryism from Beaconsfield to Salisbury and of Unionism for almost the whole period that the Unionism of 1886 survived. Moreover the history covers many phases of English life from Lord Randolph Churchill's days at Eton and Oxford to the end of Queen Victoria's reign—phases of political, official, and social life in Ireland as well as in England which do not always receive due attention in English political memoirs or political history.

EDWARD PORRITT.

A History of Our Own Times from the Diamond Jubilee, 1897, to the Accession of King Edward VII. Vols. IV. and V. By JUSTIN MCCARTHY. (New York and London: Harper and Brothers. 1905. Pp. vii, 320; v, 303.)

As an easy and superficial record of the happenings of the last years of the reign of Queen Victoria, these two new volumes of Justin